

860416 (FBI)
B4X1083

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ACTION: POL-2

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REF: 24 JUL

INFO: AM DCM ECON AID DAO P40 CHRON

R 231100Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO RUEHOM/SSCOTATE WASHDC 171

INFO RUEHUK/AMEMBASSY KABUL 3382

RUEHVR/AMCONSUL KARACHI 5563

ZEN/AMCONSUL LAHORE 8122

RUDIC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2205

RUEHOC/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 729

RUSPAC/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9572

RUESHR/AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 1931

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OADR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF, UR

SUBJ: SOVIETS DENY ROLE IN AFGHAN COUP

1. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR BUDNIK, IN CONVERSATION WITH POL COUNSELOR AT JULY 25 SOCIAL FUNCTION, WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO DENY ANY ADVANCE SOVIET KNOWLEDGE OF DAUD'S JULY 17 COUP IN KABUL. SOVIETS, HE INSISTED, HAD - ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH COUP AND WERE AS SURPRISED - AS ANYONE ELSE WHEN IT OCCURRED.

2. ASKED WHETHER HE FORESAW DIFFICULTIES IN PAK/AFGHAN RELATIONS IN VIEW DAUD'S RECORD AS HARD-LINER ON PUSHTUNISTAN, BUDNIK SAID HE THOUGHT DAUD'S REFERENCE TO PUSHTUNISTAN IN HIS INITIAL RADIO SPEECH REFLECTED HIS NEED TO RALLY IMMEDIATE SUPPORT FROM ALL SEGMENTS AFGHAN SOCIETY, INCLUDING PUSHTUNISTAN ADVOCATES. ONCE HIS REGIME ORGANIZED ITSELF AND SOLIDIFIED ITS CONTROL, BUDNIK THOUGHT THERE WAS GOOD CHANCE IT WOULD TAKE MODERATE STAND TOWARD PUSHTUNISTAN.

3. BUDNIK EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT DAUD HAD NOT YET ANNOUNCED COMPOSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT APART FROM NAMING HIMSELF PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER. HE COULD OFFER NO REASONS FOR APPARENT DELAY.

4. COMMENT: APPEARS FROM BUDNIK'S REMARKS THAT WIDESPREAD LOCAL SPECULATION TO EFFECT MOSCOW HAD MASTERMINDED DAUD'S COUP IS MAKING LOCAL SOVIETS UNCOMFORTABLE.

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